

TITLE: CHIMNEY
 VERSION: V2.2
 DATE PUBLISHED: 06/23/22

DEFINITION: A vertical or near vertical passageway connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance.

PURPOSE: To safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

COMMON COMPONENTS: Visible flue; Firebox; Brick; Concrete; Masonry block; Wood Framing; Clay; Natural Stone

LOCATION: ☒ Unit Any enclosed, habitable space where a gas fireplace, wood-burning fireplace, or wood-burning appliance is located

☒ Inside Any enclosed, shared space where a gas fireplace, wood-burning fireplace, or wood-burning appliance is located

☒ Outside Any exterior, visually accessible component of a gas fireplace, wood-burning fireplace, or wood-burning appliance

MORE INFORMATION: - Ventilation of combustion gases from fuel-burning appliances should be evaluated under the respective item's standard, including, but not limited to:
 - Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
 - Water Heater
 - A ventless fireplace should not be evaluated under this standard.

DEFICIENCY 1: A visually accessible chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is incomplete or damaged such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

LOCATION: ☒ Unit ☒ Inside ☒ Outside

DEFICIENCY 2: Chimney exhibits signs of structural failure.

LOCATION: ☒ Outside

DEFICIENCY I — UNIT: A VISUALLY ACCESSIBLE CHIMNEY, FLUE, OR FIREBOX CONNECTED TO A FIREPLACE OR WOOD-BURNING APPLIANCE IS INCOMPLETE OR DAMAGED SUCH THAT IT MAY NOT SAFELY CONTAIN FIRE AND CONVEY SMOKE AND COMBUSTION GASES TO THE EXTERIOR.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: A visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is incomplete (i.e., evidence of a previously installed component that is now not present) such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

OR

A visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is damaged (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality) such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Life-Threatening The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to the resident.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail

HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

INSPECTION PROCESS:

- OBSERVATION:**
- Identify all fireplaces and wood-burning appliances.
 - Visually inspect each chimney, flue, and firebox to determine if it is incomplete (i.e., evidence of a previously installed component that is now not present).
 - Visually inspect each chimney, flue, and firebox for damage (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality).
- REQUEST FOR HELP:** - None
- ACTION:** - None
- MORE INFORMATION:** - If a fireplace is intentionally decommissioned (e.g., sealed; not positioned for use), then do not evaluate it under this deficiency.

DEFICIENCY 2 — INSIDE: A VISUALLY ACCESSIBLE CHIMNEY, FLUE, OR FIREBOX CONNECTED TO A FIREPLACE OR WOOD-BURNING APPLIANCE IS INCOMPLETE OR DAMAGED SUCH THAT IT MAY NOT SAFELY CONTAIN FIRE AND CONVEY SMOKE AND COMBUSTION GASES TO THE EXTERIOR.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: A visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is incomplete (i.e., evidence of a previously installed component that is now not present) such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

OR

A visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is damaged (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality) such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Life-Threatening The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to the resident.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail

HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

INSPECTION PROCESS:

- OBSERVATION:**
- Identify all fireplaces and wood-burning appliances.
 - Visually inspect each chimney, flue, and firebox to determine if it is incomplete (i.e., evidence of a previously installed component that is now not present).
 - Visually inspect each chimney, flue, and firebox for damage (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality).
- REQUEST FOR HELP:** - None
- ACTION:** - None
- MORE INFORMATION:** - If a fireplace is intentionally decommissioned (e.g., sealed; not positioned for use), then do not evaluate it under this deficiency.

DEFICIENCY I — OUTSIDE: A VISUALLY ACCESSIBLE CHIMNEY, FLUE, OR FIREBOX CONNECTED TO A FIREPLACE OR WOOD-BURNING APPLIANCE IS INCOMPLETE OR DAMAGED SUCH THAT IT MAY NOT SAFELY CONTAIN FIRE AND CONVEY SMOKE AND COMBUSTION GASES TO THE EXTERIOR.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: A visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is incomplete (i.e., evidence of a previously installed component that is now not present) such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

OR

A visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is damaged (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality) such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Life-Threatening The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to the resident.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail

HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

INSPECTION PROCESS:

- OBSERVATION:**
- Identify all fireplaces and wood-burning appliances.
 - Visually inspect each chimney, flue, and firebox to determine if it is incomplete (i.e., evidence of a previously installed component that is now not present).
 - Visually inspect each chimney, flue, and firebox for damage (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality).
- REQUEST FOR HELP:** - None
- ACTION:** - None
- MORE INFORMATION:**
- For the purpose of this inspection, the ash cleanout should be considered as part of the firebox and therefore evaluated under this deficiency.
 - For the purpose of this inspection, the inspector should not go on the roof to evaluate the chimney.
 - If a fireplace is intentionally decommissioned (e.g., sealed, not positioned for use), then do not evaluate it under this deficiency.

DEFICIENCY 2 — OUTSIDE: [CHIMNEY EXHIBITS SIGNS OF STRUCTURAL FAILURE.](#)

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: The chimney exhibits signs of structural failure such that the integrity of the chimney is jeopardized.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Life-Threatening The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to the resident.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail

HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

INSPECTION PROCESS:

- OBSERVATION:
- Identify all fireplaces and wood-burning appliances.
 - Visually inspect each chimney to determine if it exhibits any sign of structural failure.
- REQUEST FOR HELP: - None
- ACTION: - None
- MORE INFORMATION: - Examples of chimney structural failure include, but are not limited to:
- Misaligned
 - Detached
 - Leaning away from the building
 - Collapsed
 - Imminent danger of collapse
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SUMMARY OF CHANGES

TITLE: CHIMNEY

VERSION: V2.2

DATE PUBLISHED: 06/23/22

FIELD	CHANGE	VERSION	DATE
----	Abbreviated published version	V2.2	2022-06-23
Name Variants	Removed from published version		
Common Materials	Removed from published version		
Rationale	Removed from published version		
Tools or Equipment	Removed from published version		
Definition	Revised definition	V2.1	2021-04-02
Purpose	Revised purpose	V2.1	2021-04-02
Common Components	Revised common components	V2.1	2021-04-02
Location		V2.1	2021-04-02
Unit	Revised description		
Inside	Revised description		
Outside	Revised description		
More Information	Revised response	V2.1	2021-04-02
Deficiency 1		V2.1	2021-04-02
Title	Unit, Inside, & Outside: Revised title		
Deficiency Criteria	Unit, Inside, & Outside: Revised deficiency criteria		
Health and Safety Determination	Unit, Inside, & Outside: "Life-Threatening"		
Inspection Process	Unit, Inside, & Outside: Revised Observation, Request for Help, Action, and More Information		
Deficiency 2	Complete rework of previous deficiency 2	V2.1	2021-04-02
Title	Outside: Revised title		
Deficiency Criteria	Outside: Revised deficiency criteria		

Health and Safety Determination	Outside: "Life-Threatening"		
Inspection Process	Outside: Revised Observation, Request for Help, Action, and More Information		
Deficiency 3	Removed from V2.1; captured under deficiency 1	V2.1	2021-04-02
Deficiency 4	Removed from V2.1; captured under deficiency 1	V2.1	2021-04-02
Deficiency 5	Removed from V2.1; captured under deficiency 1 and deficiency 2	V2.1	2021-04-02
Deficiency 6	Removed from V2.1; captured under deficiency 1 and deficiency 2	V2.1	2021-04-02
Deficiency 1		V2.0	2020-10-28
Health and Safety Determination	Changed to "Life-Threatening"		
Health and Safety Determination	Added standardized description		
Correction Timeframe	Changed to "24 hours"		
HCV Pass / Fail	Field added; response input as "Fail"		
HCV Correction Timeframe	Changed to "24 hours"		
Deficiency 2		V2.0	2020-10-28
Health and Safety Determination	Changed to "Life-Threatening"		
Health and Safety Determination	Added standardized description		
Correction Timeframe	Changed to "24 hours"		
HCV Pass / Fail	Field added; response input as "Fail"		
HCV Correction Timeframe	Changed to "24 hours"		
Deficiency 3		V2.0	2020-10-28
Health and Safety Determination	Changed to "Life-Threatening"		
Health and Safety Determination	Added standardized description		
Correction Timeframe	Changed to "24 hours"		
HCV Pass / Fail	Field added; response input as "Fail"		
HCV Correction Timeframe	Changed to "24 hours"		
Deficiency 4		V2.0	2020-10-28
Health and Safety Determination	Added standardized description		
HCV Pass / Fail	Field added; response input as "Fail"		

Deficiency 5		V2.0	2020-10-28
Health and Safety Determination	Added standardized description		
HCV Pass / Fail	Field added; response input as "Fail"		
Overall Formatting	Complete rework of document format and layout	VI.3	2020-07-31
Definition	Revised definition	VI.3	2020-07-31
Purpose	Field added	VI.3	2020-07-31
Location	Revised inspectable locations	VI.3	2020-07-31
More Information	Field added	VI.3	2020-07-31
Deficiency 1	Separated by inspectable locations — Outside	VI.3	2020-07-31
Title	Revised title; added inspectable locations		
Deficiency Criteria	Revised deficiency criteria		
Health and Safety Determination	Revised to "Standard" determination; added standardized description		
Correction Timeframe	Field added; response input as "Within 30 days"		
HCV — Correction Timeframe	Field added; response input as "Within 30 days"		
Rationale	Revised rationale categories, types, and explanations; added standardized codes and descriptions		
Inspection Process	Revised observation, request for help, action, and more information		
Tools or Equipment	Field added to deficiency; response revised		
Deficiency 2	Separated by inspectable locations — Unit and Inside	VI.3	2020-07-31
Title	Added inspectable locations		
Deficiency Criteria	Revised deficiency criteria		
Health and Safety Determination	Added standardized description		
Correction Timeframe	Field added; response input as "Within 30 days"		
HCV — Correction Timeframe	Field added; response input as "Within 30 days"		
Rationale	Revised rationale categories, types, and explanations; added standardized codes and descriptions		
Inspection Process	Revised observation, request for help, action, and more information		
Tools or Equipment	Field added to deficiency; response revised		

Deficiency 3	Separated by inspectable locations — Unit, Inside, and Outside	VI.3	2020-07-31
Title	Revised title; added inspectable locations		
Deficiency Criteria	Revised deficiency criteria		
Health and Safety Determination	Revised to “Standard” determination; added standardized description		
Correction Timeframe	Field added; response input as “Within 30 days”		
HCV — Correction Timeframe	Field added; response input as “Within 30 days”		
Rationale	Revised rationale categories, types, and explanations; added standardized codes and descriptions		
Inspection Process	Revised observation, request for help, action, and more information		
Tools or Equipment	Field added to deficiency; response revised		
Deficiency 4	Consolidated previous deficiency 4 and deficiency 6 Separated by inspectable locations — Unit, Inside, and Outside	VI.3	2020-07-31
Title	Revised title; added inspectable locations		
Deficiency Criteria	Revised deficiency criteria		
Health and Safety Determination	Revised to “Standard” determination; added standardized description		
Correction Timeframe	Field added; response input as “Within 30 days”		
HCV — Correction Timeframe	Field added; response input as “Within 30 days”		
Rationale	Revised rationale categories, types, and explanations; added standardized codes and descriptions		
Inspection Process	Revised observation, request for help, action, and more information		
Tools or Equipment	Field added to deficiency; response revised		
Deficiency 5	Separated by inspectable locations — Outside	VI.3	2020-07-31
Title	Revised title; added inspectable locations		
Health and Safety Determination	Revised to “Severe Non-Life-Threatening” determination; added standardized description		
Correction Timeframe	Field added; response input as “24 hours”		
HCV — Correction Timeframe	Field added; response input as “30 days”		
Rationale	Revised rationale categories, types, and explanations; added standardized codes and descriptions		
Inspection Process	Revised request for help, action, and more information		

Tools or Equipment	Field added to deficiency; response revised		
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